

Peter Fillerup
& Gary Moon

Two Local Artists To Exhibit Art at Western Heritage Art Show 7-15-92

Sculptors Peter Fillerup and Gary Moon, and painter-sculptor Bill Barber, will be among the 47 leading Utah artists to take part in this year's Days of '47 Western Heritage Art Show.

The show will be on display at the Utah State Fairpark July 17-24, from noon to 9 p.m. each day. It features the works of "representational" artists — people who paint or sculpt things other people can recognize. Barber and Fillerup, both of Heber City, and Moon, of Woodland, were admitted to the prestigious display because they have demonstrated a mastery of their artistic craft and deal in Western themes.

"No craziness and no lewdness allowed in this show. Just art that the overwhelming majority of people will recognize as great art," declared John Prazen, one of the shows organizers.

Sculptor Grant Speed, a member of the prestigious Cowboy Artists of America, is the featured artist this year. Speed, who now lives in Linden, is someone who knows his subject matter and his medium. He grew up on a ranch in Texas, punched cows as a youth and rode the professional rodeo circuit when he was a student at Brigham Young University. Only when it became clear that he'd never be able to buy the ranch he'd dreamed of did he devote himself to his art.

"We thought the show would accomplish a lot of things that art and artists want to do," added Joe Venus, the other organizer. "First, when we interlock the Days of '47 celebration with art, we add to the appreciation of our heritage while we borrow the theme to attract the crowds."

Another attraction will be the

opportunity for people to watch and talk with the artists at work, a chance for young people to meet and learn how it's done.

"We're doing this without state or federal funds," notes Joe Venus. "That's a point of pride for us. People actually buy our work, so we survive without government handouts. Last year, the artists who participated donated some of their works to a silent auction to finance the rental and security expenses for the show. If the public didn't support our art, we wouldn't have had the show. It's that simple."

Aside from that voluntary contribution, there's no entry fee for the artists, no commission on their sales. And there's no admission price for the people who want to come, other than a \$1 parking fee.

"It worked last year," says Prazen. "Our guest register showed people from all over the world. But we're not kidding anyone. They were here for other reasons, maybe the Days of '47 parade. This year, and in the future, we've got a goal to make this a destination event."

Gary Moon

Jessie Moon

performances. Beginning in 1912 he taught music at Price High School, organizing a 100-piece band and presenting many operettas. Later he organized the MIA Band of the LDS Church in Salt Lake City, which included some 750 boys and girls of Mutual age. The band appeared in the 50th Anniversary MIA parade and drew from Elder Melvin J. Ballard of the Council of the Twelve the praise "This is the best boys and girls work in the Church."

Mr. Burgener moved to California in 1935, but continued his work with bands, choirs and orchestras. He taught music to his own family, many of whom followed in musical careers. Throughout his life he taught as his motto: "Teach a boy to play a horn and he will never blow a safe."

Another son of Andreas Burgener, Walter, also followed a musical career in Midway and later in Mexico and California, adding to the musical fame of the Burgener family.

A young, new musical group gaining prominence in Midway is the Three D's, composed of young guitarists and singers, Richard Jones, Dale Pugh and Dwayne Meeks. They often entertain at the Homestead and other places in the area. They, along with many other young people in Midway who are beginning to prove themselves musically, show promise that the musical future of Midway is bright, and that music will always be a basic part of the community life.

Art, as produced and enjoyed in the Midway area, has been an expression of delight in the handiworks of an Eternal Creator. Artists have captured on canvas and paper the majestic mountains, green vales, sparkling streams and the myriad shades of green on the hills and in the forests.

One of the early pioneer painters was Mark Kirby whose paintings were placed in many of the homes. One of his most beautiful creations was the curtain that hung in the Old Midway Opera House and later the Amusement Hall.

Another accomplished artist was Jacob Arnold Bigler who shared his talent with his townsmen after studying art in Paris and other European areas.

A number of Midway artists have followed professional art careers. Included among these are Verna Berg, who is especially known for costuming, scenery displays and decorations; Paul Kuhni, art supervisor in the Jordan School District of Salt Lake County; Karl Probst, art teacher at Wasatch High School and Richard Van Wagoner who teaches art at Weber College in Ogden. Boyd Van Wagoner also follows an art career with special skill in sculpturing.

Of artists who now live in the Midway area, Ferrin Whitaker is perhaps the most recognized. He was trained in Wasatch schools and later became nationally prominent in advertising art in Chicago. Returning to the home of his boyhood after a successful career, Mr. Whitaker

Boyd Van Wagoner
(did sculpting)

Ref: HBUM p 627